



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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Coconino County Sheriff's Detectives Investigate the Death of an Elk hunter

Flagstaff, AZ- Coconino County Sheriff's Detectives and Deputies are investigating the death of 27 year old Skylar Stock of Queen Creek Arizona who was struck by a large tree while he slept in a camp tent in the Blue Ridge area. The Coconino County Sheriff's Office received this report from the Gila County Sheriff's Office who received the initial 911 call on Monday, December 7, 2009 at about 10:30 p.m.

Investigation has revealed that the victim and a friend who were elk hunting in the area of Blue Ridge had set up camp approximately 1/8 of a mile off of Highway 260 approximately 20 miles east of Camp Verde. The two hunters were asleep in their tent during a severe winter storm involving high wind gusts. It is believed that the high winds caused a Ponderosa Pine Tree that was approximately 2' in diameter and about 70' in height, to snap approximately 20' from ground level. The top portion of the tree fell on the tent and struck the victim on the head causing his immediate death. The victim's friend who was not struck by the tree and was uninjured cut his way out of the tent. He cut his way back into the tent retrieved the victim's cell phone and called 911.

The National Weather Station located closest to the camp site reported up to 66 mile per hour wind gusts during the time when this tragic accident occurred. Detectives who inspected the tree at the point where it broke reported obvious evidence of severe ant infestation.

Skylar Stock served the City of Tempe Arizona as a fire fighter. Sheriff Bill Pribil and the men and women of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office extend our deepest sympathies to Skylar's family and the men and women of the Tempe Fire Department.

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